

Maine Charter School Commission

Request for Proposal and Charter School Application
FOR SCHOOL OPENING 2016 issued 6/10/15

Question and Answer

Posted on Maine Charter School Commission Website <http://www.maine.gov/csc/>
July 13, 2015

Clarifying Question RFP 2016:

We intend to have a preschool with our program, as is customary with Montessori schools (public and private). In reviewing the new preschool law, it appears that we may apply to the Maine Department of Education to be a public preschool for our 4 year olds. If this is true, are we able to put that in our application and budget for the preschools at the approximately \$6600 per student per year?

I understand from the new law that we would need to submit to their oversight as well. Is that true, or is it only overseen by the Charter Commission?

Answer:

LD 3 now a Chaptered Law as follows"

3	An Act to Ensure Consistent Certification of Graduation Standards in Publicly Funded Secondary Schools	Public Law 2015 Chapter 40
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The law requires that preschools in charter schools meet the public preschool program standards. The charter school with a preschool should do an application with the Maine Department of Education (Department), be approved by the Department and count children accordingly for EPS.

With the new law the Charter school funding is an ED279 similar to SAUs – the bulk of their funding is derived from the prior October count (FY16 is based on 10/1/2014. HOWEVER, the charter schools “also” get an estimated count while they are in their 5 year start-up period – this is because their maximum cap is set for each of those 5 years by the Commission. After the 5 year start-up period has been completed they will be based on the prior October count. For information on school funding contact Maine DOE’s Tyler Backus at Tyler.Backus@maine.gov or 624-6865 .